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HEALTH

1942

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

GEORGE G. CULMER,

Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE

Year Ending 31st December, 1942.

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1943

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1942.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM

I have now the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for 1942 on the Health Conditions of the Borough. There are no special features to commen upon. The amount of Infectious Disease was small: Influenza appeared in the spring; it was rather mild; no deaths were certified as due to it. Whooping Cough was prevalent during the first two or three months.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

The same officials are carrying on.

NATURE AND CONDITION OF THE AREA

Area of the District in acres: 3,070

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA

These remain unchanged.

The traffic in the Creek has been interfered with by the war especially that from abroad, which has practically disappeared.

Rateable Value of the Borough	...	£70,766
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£272/1/7

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

There were 191 live births registered during the year—92 males and 99 females. This gives a Birth-rate of 17.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population—the average of England and Wales being 15.8. This is more than in 1941 when the total number was 163. There were 8 illegitimate births (boys 5 girls 3) none of these children died. There were 9 still births registered (4 male and 5 female); one of these was illegitimate.

DEATHS

The number actually registered was 331. From this must be deducted the deaths of 170 persons who belonged to other districts. On the other side we must add 18 deaths in other districts that must be ascribed to this district, as follows:—

Chartham Mental Hospital	2
Canterbury Hospital...	6
Other Hospitals	4
Other Districts	4
Keycol Hill Hospital	2
	18

There were 234 deaths in Public Institutions in the district:—210 in Bensted House, 9 in the Cottage Hospital, and 15 in the Nursing Homes. There were 11 deaths of children under one year of age, and 261 of persons of the age of 65 and upwards.

The result is a net total of 179 deaths. This gives for the Borough a Death-rate for the year 1942 of 16, which is above the average for the whole kingdom, which is given as 11.6.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths under one year of age was 11 (5 male and 6 female), as against 4 in the previous year. This gives a ratio of 57.5 per 1,000 births, against 24.5 in 1941. The average for the whole country is 49.

One illegitimate infant died during the year.

CAUSES OF INFANTILE DEATHS.

Bronchitis	2
Broncho Pneumonia	2
Premature Birth & Congential Causes	5
Infantile Diarrhoea	1
Whooping Cough	1

CAUSES OF DEATH	1941	1942
Enteric Fever	0	0
Measles	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1
Influenza	4	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATH—continued	1941	1942
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	5
Tuberculous Meningitis	0	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1
Cancer	23	29
Meningitis	0	0
Diabetes	2	2
Organic Heart Disease	41	42
Bronchitis	12	14
Pneumonia	8	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	5
Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	2
Appendicitis	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0
Alcoholism	0	0
Nephritis	4	6
Parturition	0	0
Premature Birth and Congenital Causes ...	0	5
Accidents and Suicides	4	8
Cerebral Haemorrhage...	27	28
Arterio-sclerosis	7	4
Syphilis	0	1
Rheumatic Fever	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Digestive Diseases	3	0
Senility	17	56

Live Births—	*Total.*	*M.*	*F.*	
Legitimate ...	191	92	99	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 17.1
Illegitimate ...	8	5	3	
Stillbirths	9	4	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 45
Deaths	179	81	84	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 16

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis ...	0	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes ...	0	—
Total	0	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	57.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	54.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	125
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	29
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

COTTAGE HOSPITAL

Beds, 18.

In-Patients Treated	245
Out-Patients Treated (Minor Cases)	1422
Operations—	
Major	74
Minor	230
X-Ray Cases	125

There is also a Provident Dispensary which arranges for the treatment of poor people in their own homes.

HEALTH SERVICES

These are the same as in previous Reports.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service has been maintained at a high state of efficiency on the same lines as in 1941.

The Personnel have given an immense amount of time to Civil Defence work, which, as during the past two or three years, is additional to their usual activities.

Patients removed	429
Road Accidents	10
Other Accidents	12
Total Mileage	7.843

In addition to their Transport work, the members of the Nursing Division have made numerous attendances at the Hospital and the various School, Welfare and Maternity Clinics throughout the year and are also carrying out the treatment of Scabies cases.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

There are two private Nursing Homes in the Borough, which are licensed for the reception of Maternity Cases.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

This has been established for some years and is held at the Queen's Hall, twice a week, having been open 103 days. Four hundred and two children are in regular attendance and have made 3080 attendances.

An Antenatal Clinic is held on Tuesdays and has had a total of 95 attendances, and was open 12 times. Fifty-eight mothers attended.

TREATMENT CASES AND HOME NURSING

These remain as before.

LOCAL ACTS, ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYELAWS

No alteration.

WATER SUPPLY

As in my last Report.

Samples taken—

Chemical Analysis—Public Supply	... ...	3
Wells	... ...	2
Bacteriological Tests—Public Supply	... ...	6

All with satisfactory results.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements are as in my last report; no further deep sewers have been laid down.

Number of Houses in the Borough	... ...	3726
Number of Freshwater Closets	... ...	3676
Number of Privies (movable receptacles)	...	110
Number of Privies (fixed receptacles)	.. ...	10
Conversions into Water Closets	... ...	0

HOUSE REFUSE AND SCAVENGING

Same as last year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

None.

HOME WORKERS

Very little; two lists of out-workers sent in.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

As before.

FACTORIES

Number of premises on the Register:—

Factories with power	... ...	39
Factories without power	... ...	41
		80

The occupations carried on in these places show no change from previous reports.

These have all been regularly inspected and kept up to a proper standard of cleanliness and ventilation and provision of proper sanitary conveniences, and overcrowding has been prevented.

SCHOOLS

The five Schools in the Borough remain as before in their situations and sanitary arrangements.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Regular inspection as required by the Board of Education has been carried out on the children entering school, and also at the ages of 8 and 13. Re-examinations and special examinations have also been made as necessary, the total number of children examined amounting to 996.

The School Clinics and their arrangements have been continued throughout the year on the same lines as previously.

Statistics of work done—

Tonsils and Adenoids.	Operated on	17
Eye cases.	Examinations	32
	Re-examinations	44
Glasses Prescribed	... .	42
Glasses Repaired ...	... ...	5
Dental Treatment.	Children	579
	Sessions	148
	Attendances	1109
	Extractions	1014
	Fillings	1027
	General Anaesthetics ...	375
Orthopaedic Scheme.	Cases	7
Minor Ailments Clinic.	Sessions	268
	Children Treated ...	603
Visits by School Nurse	... ...	268

SUPPLY OF MILK

This has been carried on by the Education Committee. All children that need milk are having it—many twice a day; the milk is pasteurised.

NUTRITION

The Nutrition Survey has been continued and records kept of under nourished children; the results are very encouraging; 97% of children are up to or over the average.

HOUSING

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

MILK SUPPLY

The milk supply of the Borough was formerly obtained chiefly from outside its boundaries, but the enlargement of the area has now included some of these sources within the Borough itself. We have now—

Producers of Milk	6
Retail Purveyors	9
Registered Premises...	14
Samples sent for examination	25

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There were 8 in the Borough: but 7 were discontinued for the duration of the War.

Details of Meat Inspection are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

BAKEHOUSES

No change from last Report.

RAG FLOCK ACTS AND FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Same conditions as in 1938.

WORKING OF SHOPS ACT, 1934

Inspection under this heading has been limited as the Inspector has been absorbed into A.R.P. duties.

No complaints have been received under the Acts.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The amount of Influenza during the past year was about as usual and of a moderate type; no deaths have been attributed to it. The total number of notifications is less than in 1941, viz: 91 as against 459.

This difference is due to the epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough having practically disappeared.

Our arrangements for dealing with infection are the same as previously.

Deaths from Notifiable Diseases.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5
Whooping Cough	1
Pneumonia	9
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1

There were 91 cases of infectious disease notified under all headings in 1942 as against 459 in 1941. Of these, 28 cases were removed to Isolation Hospitals. These are classified as follows:—

	Notified		*Removed to Hospital*	
	1942	1942	1942	1941
Diphtheria	1	10	1	10
Erysipelas	2	7	0	1
Scarlet Fever	15	10	14	7
Enteric Fever	0	1	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	1	0	1
Anterior Polio Myelitis ...	0	2	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	4	2	3	1
Ophthalmia, Neonatorum ...	1	0	1	0
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ..	M.8	M.7	M.2	M.0
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	F.2	F.11	F.5	F.2
Tuberculosis, other forms ...	M.3	M.1	M.1	M.1
Tuberculosis, other forms ...	F.2	F.2	F.1	F.3
Pneumonia	7	6	0	0
Measles	3	314	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	43	85	0	0
	91	459	28	27

There were 9 deaths from Pneumonia and 5 deaths certified from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. I received during the year 9 notifications under Form 1, and 11 under Form 2.

No action has had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No case of Tuberculosis has been found not to be notified: it has not been found necessary to take any action in this direction. No action has been taken for disinfestation of Bugs.

ANTI-DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

As susceptibility to Diphtheria is highest in the early years of life, I must strongly impress upon parents the desirability of having their children immunised at the age of one year, which can be done free of charge to them by their own medical men; attention has been drawn to this through the School Teachers, Health Visitors and Welfare Workers and by distribution of leaflets; with the result that over 80% of the children have been immunised and the process is still being carried on; but the need must be kept before the public as fresh generations of children come into existence.

It will be noted that only one case was notified during the year and that in an adult not immunised.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Cases

	Notified	Treated at Home	Treated in Hospital	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Blind	Deaths
	1	0	1	1	0	0	0

Age Groups—Cases

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65+
Diphtheria									1			
Scarlet Fever ...		1	1	1		11		1				
Enteric Fever ...												
Puerperal Fever ...												
Pneumonia					1	1				2		3
Erysipelas											2	
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...						2			2			
Polio Myelitis ...												

Deaths

Pneumonia	8
Erysipelas	0
Ant Polio Myelitis ...	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5	1							
10	2			1				
15				1		1		
20		1	1					
25			1		1	1		
35	1	1	1		1			
45	2							
55	2				2			
65 and upwards ...								
Totals ...	8	2	3	2	4	2		

Number of cases on Tuberculosis Register at end of 1942:—

	M.	F.
Pulmonary	29	36
Non-Pulmonary	8	21

Porportion of non-notified Tuberculous Deaths to total: Nil

INSPECTION

During the year I have made routine inspections of the various premises that come under my powers, and special visits as occasion arose.

Unfit Houses	10
Factories	55
Bakehouses	14
Slaughterhouses	2
Fish Shops	6
Dairies	24
Drainage	10
Common Lodging Houses	2
Various	21
	144

The F.A.P. at the Mount and the Cottage Hospital have been kept in readiness for the reception of Casualties due to Air Raids and other enemy action.

The details of the various premises to be inspected and the work done in connection therewith are set out fully in the report of the Sanitary Inspector, and it is, therefore, unnecessary for me to recapitulate them.

In concluding my Report, I have to acknowledge the consideration always shown to me by the Council and valuable help received from my brother officials.

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1943.

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1942.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH.

Your Worship and Gentlemen,

Owing to war conditions the Minister of Health has again intimated that reports shall contain only essential information. I therefore submit the following brief report covering the main items of sanitary work carried out during the year.

HOUSING.

No representations under Section 11 of the Housing Act have been made during the year. One house in North Lane (previously represented) has been demolished by the owners.

Considerable delay has been experienced in complying with notices due to the shortage of materials and skilled labour. In consequence of this no routine of inspection of houses under the Regulations was possible but a number of inspections were made in investigating complaints, closet accommodation and the provision of flushing cisterns.

Twenty-four statutory notices were served under the Public Health Acts.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The usual enquiries were made in connection with notified cases and 61 rooms disinfected for various reasons.

WATER

Five samples of water were submitted to the County Analyst for chemical analysis, including three from the Public Supply. The reports shewed the water to be of good or excellent organic quality. In addition, six samples were taken from the Public Supply for bacteriological examination, all of which gave satisfactory results.

MEAT AND FOODS

The system of centralised slaughtering under the Government scheme has continued to work satisfactory throughout the year, thus giving better facilities for meat inspection and the control of "doubtful" animals.

The particulars of work under the regulations summarised for the year are:—

ANIMALS INSPECTED.

Beasts	580
Cows	189
Sheep	6109
Pigs	304
Calves	356
Total ...	7538

664 inspections were made at the slaughterhouse and 356 inspections were at meat, fish and other food shops.

The total amount of meat and organs surrendered on account of disease or unsound conditions was 9,760-lbs. Other food inspections resulted in the surrender of canned meat, fish, vegetables and milk, also eggs and other foods amounting to 6 000-lbs. making a total weight of 15,760-lbs.—over 7 tons.

The number of animals found wholly or partly diseased was 396, while 48% of the total weight of meat and organs surrendered was on account of tuberculosis.

Particulars of carcases inspected and condemned:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	580	189	356	6109	304
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	1	24	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	49	38	2	205	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	8.62	20.63	.94	3.75	4.93
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	7	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	30	—	—	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	2.24	19.57	—	—	3.28

DAIRIES

The following are on the register:—

Producers	9
Retail Purveyors	6
Registered Premises	14

104 inspections were made.

The samples of milk taken during the year comprised:—

Tuberculin tested	5
Accredited	14
Pasteurised	6
Total ...	25

Two failed to satisfy the prescribed conditions and four were delayed in transit.

FACTORIES

The following premises are on the register:—

Factories (with power)	39
Factories (without power)	41
Total ...	80

One hundred and twenty-two inspections were made and two nuisances found. Eight retail bakehouses and six factory bakehouses are included in the above total.

Two lists of Outworkers were received and entered in the Outworkers register.

DEFECTS and NUISANCES
dealt with under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

Choked and defective drains	54
Defective and insufficient closets	73
Flushing cisterns provided to closets	70
Insufficient drainage..	8
Insanitary sinks and waste pipes	9
Defective roofs and gutters	14
Flushing cisterns out of order	11
Damp walls	5
Overflowing cesspools	20
Various	8
Total ...	272

INSPECTIONS

Premises, Drains, etc.	289
Infectious Diseases	53
Slaughterhouse and Market	664
Fish, Meat and Food Shops	356
Dairies	114
Factories	122
Common Lodging Houses	13
Reinspections, Hop Huts, etc.	691
Total ...	2302

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES FOUND

During inspection of houses	270
Factories...	2
Total ...	272

ACTION TAKEN

Informal notices served	119
Statutory notices P.H. Acts	24
Total ...	143

RESULTS

Two hundred and ninety-eight defects and nuisances (including those outstanding from the previous year) were remedied, leaving 22 outstanding on December 31st, 1942.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE G. CULMER,

M.R.San.Inst., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

West Street, Faversham.

8th February, 1943.